

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 05676 221002Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 EUR-12 SCA-01
INR-07 CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /051 W
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O P 220902Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8719
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, MY
SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: MALAYSIA

REF: STATE 197014

1. MEETINGS WITH ICEM, UNHCR, AND THE MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY HAVE BEEN HELD RECENTLY TO PREPARE PLANS, PROCEDURES, AND FACILITIES FOR THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN REFUGEE TRAVEL FROM THE 10-12 CAMPS IN EAST AND WEST MALAYSIA TO , AND THROUGH, KUALA LUMPUR.

2. JEAN SCHILTZ AND CHRIS WHARTON, ICEM/BKK, VISITED KL 12-15 AUGUST TO DISCUSS SETTING UP AN ICEM SUB-OFFICE HERE FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS TO HANDLE TRAVEL OF KL BOAT CASES. DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WITH MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE UNHCR STAFF. IT APPEARS THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM IN KL FOR TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR UP TO 200-300 REFUGEES, WHICH WILL BE ADEQUATE FOR MOVEMENT TO THE U.S. OF 500 PER MONTH. THE RED CRESCENT WILL BE RELOCATING ITS KL OFFICE IN LATE SEPTEMBER AND WILL MAKE THE OLD OFFICE SPACE, CENTRALLY LOCATED DOWNTOWN IN A ONE-STORY WOODEN
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PAGE 02 KUALA 05676 221002Z

BUILDING WITH TOILET AND SHOWER FACILITIES AND A KITCHEN AREA, AVAILABLE AS THE PRIMARY TRANSIT CENTER. THIS CENTER WILL BE USED DURING ICEM AND MEDICAL PROCESSING. A SECOND FACILITY, LOCATED APPROXIMATELY SEVEN MILES FROM KL WITH A CAPACITY OF 80 (EXPANDABLE TO 150) IS NOW USED FOR CE PROCESSING. CENTER 2 IS PROPOSED AS A HOLDING CAMP FOR MEDICAL CASES AND FOR OTHERS WHOSE

TRAVEL IS DELAYED. DR. KARaulNIK, OF ICEM, IS EXPECTED IN FROM BANGKOK SOON FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL MEDICAL AUTHORITIES, AND THE RED CRESCENT, CONCERNING THE INCREASED REQUIREMENT FOR IMMIGRATION PHYSICALS. THE CURRENT SYSTEM, WHILE ADEQUATE FOR CE CASELOAD, WILL NOT HANDLE 500 PEOPLE PER MONTH. DO NOT SEE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS HERE AS X-RAYS AND LAB TESTS CAN BE PERFORMED OUTSIDE, WITH PANELED DOCTORS SCREENING THE RESULTS FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

3. A PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE UNHCR IS CONTINUED INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE PROGRAM FOR REFUGEE EMIGRATION FROM MALAYSIA. WE HAVE INFORMED THE UNHCR THAT THE U.S. IS NOT, NECESSARILY, GOING TO APPROVE THE ENTIRE CURRENT BOAT CASE POPULATION OF 3,000 PLUS FOR IMMEDIATE PAROLE. AS THE DEPARTMENT HAS INDICATED, WE, TOO, WISH TO GIVE THE FRENCH, AUSTRALIANS, NEW ZEALANDERS, AND OTHERS, A SHOT AT THE REFUGEES, IN ADDITION TO ALLOWING SOME FLEXIBILITY FOR OURSELVES IN PAROLING REFUGEES ARRIVING IN MALAYSIA AFTER OCTOBER.

4. WIRELESS FILES OF AUGUST 20 CONTAINED STORY FROM LOCAL PRESS ON REFUGEES INDICATING THAT, ACCORDING TO U.S. EMBASSY HERE, "MORE THAN HALF" OF THE 3,000 REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA MAY BE ACCEPTED INTO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUALA 05676 221002Z

U.S. THIS WAS THE RESULT OF A RESPONSE ON BACKGROUND TO WHAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE AN INFORMAL PRESS QUERY. EMBASSY HAS MADE NO REPEAT NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON NEW REFUGEE PROGRAM BEYOND ESTABLISHED GUIDANCE.

5. THE JOINT VOLAG REP, GALEN BEERY OF CWS, HAS DONE A REMARKABLE JOB IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS. HIS STAFF NOW STANDS AT TWO AMERICANS AND THREE LOCALS. AN ADDITIONAL AMERICAN, EX-PCV, AND TWO MORE LOCALS ARE DUE ON BOARD THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22. TWO MORE CWS AMERICANS WILL ARRIVE IN LATE SEPTEMBER. THE EMBASSY IS ASSISTING, ON AN "AS REQUIRED" BASIS, WITH AN FSO TO ASSIST IN SCREENING, AND A LOCAL PIT POSITION MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO THE REFUGEE EFFORT (KL 4941, PARA 3) IN OCTOBER. VOLAG STAFF WILL BE INCREASINGLY AVAILABLE FOR PAROLE PROCESSING AS ICEM BUILDS UP TO TAKE OVER THE TRAVEL FUNCTION IN OCTOBER. (NOTE: ICEM WILL PROBABLY START WORK HERE O/A SEPTEMBER 15 TO OJT ON OUR 21 AND 28 SEPTEMBER CE MOVES OF APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE TOTAL).

6. QUESTION: HAVE THE I-94'S BEEN AIR POUCHED?

WE NEED TO START PREPARING THE FILES FOR INS. PLEASE
PROVIDE POUCH DATE.

7. FINALLY, WHAT IS STATUS OF SEARCH FOR QUALIFIED
FOLLOW-ON REFUGEE OFFICER TO REPLACE THOMPSON?
MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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